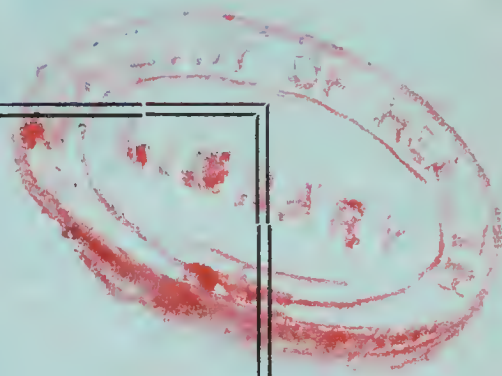


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**MANGOTSFIELD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

FOR THE YEAR

**1938.**

STAPLE HILL PRINTING Co.



**MANGOTSFIELD**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

FOR THE YEAR

**1938.**



## MANGOTSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

### Comprising—

DOWNEND, SOUNDWELL & MANGOTSFIELD WARDS.

### Chairman of the Council, 1938—

MR. W. HATHWAY, J P.

### Members of the Council, 1938—

Mr. W. HATHWAY, J.P.

Mr. S. CHURCHILL, Vice Chairman.

Mr. L. G. PALMER

Mr. H. C. BRACEY

Mr R. S. WEMBRIDGE,

Mr. B. W. J. WOODHALL,

Mr. H. F WREN, C.C., J.P.

Mr. W. BRITTON.

Mr. F COWLES.

Mr. J. EASTMAN.

Mr F. MONKS.

Mr. J. SHEPPARD.

Mr. P. H. CROSS.

Mr. G G, ENGLAND.

Mr S. T. SMART.

### Clerk to the Council—

Mr. F. WALLACE.


### Public Health Staff—

*Medical Officer of Health* (to 30th  
April, 1938) ... .. THOMAS AUBREY, M.B., (London).

*Medical Officer of Health* (from 1st  
May, 1938) ... .. J. MENZIES CORMACK, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor* ... F ALAN LONG, M.I.M.C.E., M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. R S.I.  
(Appointed 1st December, 1929).

*Clerk to the Health Department and  
Surveyor* ... .. D. S. CROSS,  
(Appointed 20th February, 1939).



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# ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health for  
Mangotsfield Urban District for the Year 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Mangotsfield Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health of this district for the year 1938, this being the tenth report since the formation of the Urban District in 1927.

I wish to thank the retiring Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T. Aubrey, (Senior), for his co-operation, and also to thank the Members of the Council for their consideration. Mr. Long's advice and knowledge of local conditions has also been of great value to me.

This Report is based in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular, No. 1728, (England), and statistics are calculated from returns made by the Registrar-General.

## A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

### (i) General Statistics.

Area.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,553 acres.
Population Census (1931).	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,251.
Population (Registrar-General's estimate middle 1938).	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,380.
Number of inhabited houses, (1931).	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,801.
Number of inhabited houses to end of 1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,600.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£63,000.
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£235.

The population of the District continues to increase and has now reached the total of 14,380, an increase of 380 over previous year's estimates.

### (ii) Social Conditions.

Throughout the year there was a general improvement, and unemployment was considerably less than in previous years, due mainly to the employment provided by the various aircraft works in the neighbouring areas.

There has been no important change in the industries carried on in this area. The following, indicates the nature of the chief trades carried out :—

Boot and Shoe Making.	Baking and Confectionery.
Motor Repairing.	Cardboard Box Making.
Printing.	Laundrying.
Clothing.	Building.
Saw Mill, Joinery and Ladder Making.	

(iii) **Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1938.**

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births	}	Legitimate	233	131	102	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,—16.4. Birth-rate for England and Wales:—15.1.
		Illegitimate	4	1	3	
Stillbirths	.....	.....	17	12	5	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:—67.0.
Deaths	.....	.....	165	84	81	} Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:—11.4. Death-rate for England and Wales:—11.6.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... .. Nil						
Deaths of Infants under one year of age ... 10						
Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—						
All Infants per 1,000 live births ... .. 42.2						
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... .. 42.2						
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... .. Nil						
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... .. 24						
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. Nil						
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil						
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1						

A slight increase in live births is recorded, giving a birth rate of 16.4, which compares favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales.

There was a marked decrease in the number of deaths, the total number of 165 being 27 less than in 1937, giving a reduced death rate of 11.4.

The principal causes of death were heart disease, which accounted for 49 deaths, cancer 24 deaths and tuberculosis 9 deaths. Congenital debility and premature birth caused deaths of all infants dying under one year, viz., 10.

The following table shows the classification of deaths in age groups as defined by the Registrar-General's Short List.



# CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Causes of Deaths.		Under 1 yr.	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75 Up.	Total.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	1	8
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	General Paralysis of the Insane. Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	3	11	7	3	24
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.,	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	3	12
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2	10	20	17	49
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	9
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	6
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	1	9
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Diarrhoea, &c., (under 2 years)	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Other Diseases of Liver, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	1	...	...	1	3	1	2	6
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	Other defined Diseases	1	1	...	1	...	3	3	1	10
36	Causes ill defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		11	3	1	3	18	41	50	38	165

## **B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

### **(i) Public Health Staff.**

A list of the Public Health Officers is set out on the front page of this report.

The Medical Officer of Health, appointed by the South Gloucestershire Joint (M.O.H.) Committee, is now a full time Public Health Officer, and is not allowed to join in General Practice.

The Joint Committee, formed under Section 3 of the Local Government Act, 1933, is composed of :—

Urban District of Mangotsfield.	3 Members.
Urban District of Kingswood	4 Members.
Rural District of Sodbury.	6 Members.
Rural District of Warmley.	2 Members.
Chairman, Mr. T. Burnham, J.P., C.C.	
Clerk, Mr. E. A. Steventon, (Clerk to the Kingswood U. D. C.).	

The Medical Officer of Health's duties are whole time divided between the four districts. Each district provides its own office accommodation for the purpose.

### **(ii) Public Health Services.**

#### **(a) Laboratory Facilities.**

There has been no change in the arrangements for examinations of Sputa, Swabs and Blood, which are carried out by the Department of Preventive Medicine, Bristol University, through an arrangement with the County Council. The Agricultural Advisory Department of the University carries out the bacteriological examination of milk samples.

#### **(b) Ambulance Facilities.**

The St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the Bristol City and Marine Ambulance Corps continue to serve the district for accidents and ordinary cases. Their service is efficient and satisfactory, and is quite adequate for the needs of the area. For cases of infectious diseases the Ambulance of the Mangotsfield and Warmley Joint Hospital Committee is used.

### **(c) Nursing in the Home.**

The Staple Hill and District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Gloucestershire County Nursing Association, continues to carry out its good work in the District. The number of visits made during the year was 8,700, and there were also 90 Midwifery and Maternity Cases attended. The Association has 4 Nurses, 3 of whom are Midwives, and there are also 2 independent Nurses in the District who are Midwives.

### **(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The Clinic at Soundwell Road, which is maintained by the Gloucestershire County Council, is available for treatment of residents in the Mangotsfield Urban area. The Clinic Service includes a Tuberculosis Dispensary where patients are seen at the request of Local Practitioners. It is also used for treatment of eye defects, ear, nose and throat defects and minor ailments, dental defects and orthopaedic treatment. There is also an ante-natal clinic supervised by the County Council. Specialists in the treatment of various conditions attend at regular intervals.

The Downend and District Child Welfare Association is a voluntary organisation formed in January, 1938, to meet the growing needs of the resident population in the Downend Ward.

Miss Hawse, the District Health Visitor, realising the necessity for a Child Welfare Centre, initiated the scheme and was successful in obtaining offers of help from voluntary workers. At an informal meeting it was agreed to collect a sum of money to launch the scheme, and the sum of £60 was raised.

The Centre was officially opened at the Schoolroom, Downend, in January, 1938, by Alderman A. Wilson, J.P., the Chairman being the Hon Mrs. Holmes-a'Court. The Centre operated through 1938 and shewed gratifying results. The number of children who attended regularly being 70 under one year and 150 over one year of age. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs J. Singleton 109 Salisbury Road, Downend.

I should like to offer my congratulations and thanks to all who have contributed to the success of this very useful effort.



(e) **Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.**

(1). *Infectious Diseases* The Mangotsfield Isolation Hospital, maintained by a Joint Committee of the Mangotsfield and Warmley Councils, with Dr. T. Aubrey, Senior, as Medical Superintendent, is available for treatment of Infectious Disease cases, and during the year 30 patients from the Urban District were treated there. A table showing the number of cases admitted with aggregate length of stay in hospital and average stay per patient is given below.

	No. of Patients Admitted.	Total No. of Treatment Days.	Average No. of days per patient.
<b>MANGOTSFIELD ISOLATION HOSPITAL.</b>			
Scarlet Fever ....	18	881	49
Diphtheria .....	10	443	44
Erysipelas .....	1	10	10
Measles .....	1	37	37
<b>HAM GREEN HOSPITAL.</b>			
Measles .....	1	27	27
Mastoids .....	1	32	32
<b>BATH ISOLATION HOSPITAL</b>			
Scarlet Fever .....	1	46	46
Erysipelas .....	1	12	12
	34	1,488	44

The formation of a County Scheme for treatment of Infectious Diseases, which has been referred to on previous occasions, was again considered during the year. Various points were debated by the respective Authorities concerned, but owing to the lack of agreement on the part of District Councils throughout the County, the scheme remained in abeyance. It is to be hoped that in the near future a satisfactory solution to the problem will be arrived at.

## C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. (i) Water Supply.

The West Gloucestershire Water Company has continued to maintain an adequate and wholesome supply of water throughout the District during the year. From figures which the Secretary has kindly furnished, it is shown that the fifty bacteriological examinations of the water supply were made and the Analyst's Certificates of same are available for inspection. In four cases *Bacillus Coli* was present in 100 c.c., but an increased rate of chlorination caused the *B. Coli* content to disappear. The Company have instituted chlorination at the Frampton Cotterell pumping station in addition to filtration.

Most of the houses in this District have a piped supply from the Company's mains.

Some difficulty arose during the year owing to the presence of animalculae in some of the larger mains in the District. This condition was treated with satisfactory results by chlorination of the water mains affected.

During 1938, 131 new connections were made, and considerable extension of water main has taken place to cope with development of the District.

A copy of the Analyst's Certificate of an examination of the water, which the Secretary of the West Gloucestershire Water Company has kindly supplied, is given below.

#### THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

91, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, E.C.4.

Analysis of sample of water received on 3/1/39 from the West Gloucestershire Water Company, Labelled Shipton Moyne, Raw Water, Well Pump Delivery Pipe.

Taken by C. W. Hooper. Witness - Date 2.1.39 at 11 a.m.

*Appearance* ... Faint opalescence, settling slowly to slight film deposit of mineral particles.

*Odour* ... Nil. Total Alkalinity as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ; 29.0

*Colour* ... Slight yellowish, filtered, Normal.

*Free from Carbonic Acid* 1.8 Reaction pH. Neutral: 7.3



*Results expressed in parts per 100,000*

Ca.	Mg.	Na.	K.	CO <sub>2</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>	Cl.	NO <sub>2</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Probable Combinations,
7.5	0.7			14.4	5.3	5.1		1.20	
7.5	—	—	—	11.25	—	—	—	—	Calcium Carbonate 18.75
—	0.7	—	—	1.72	—	—	—	—	Magnesium „ 2.42
—	—	1.10	—	1.43	—	—	—	—	Sodium Carbonate 2.53
—	—	2.54	—	—	5.3	—	—	—	Sodium Sulphate 7.84
—	—	3.32	—	—	—	5.1	—	—	Sodium Chloride 8.42
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Silica 1.20
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Difference 0.84
Total Solid constituents dried at 180°C.									42.00

*Hardness*—Permanent 0.0. Temporary 22.0. Total 22.0.

Ammonical Nitrogen 0.0198 Free Ammonia 0.0240.

Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.0016 Albuminoid Ammonia 0.0020.

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F ..... 0.010.

Nitrites ..... Absent.

Metals Iron: 0.030 in solution: 0.003. Manganese, etc. Absent.

*Note*:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 into grains per gallon, multiply by .7

Force Pump Delivery. Chlorinated Water.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Colonies per c.c. or ml.—

On Agar in 3 days at 20°C ..... 2.

On Agar at 37°C in 1 day ..... 1.

2 days ..... 1.

Bacillus Coli Present in .... — Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii Present in .... — Absent in 100 c.c.

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes).

(Signed) ERN. SUCKLING.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES  
91, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,  
LONDON, E.C. 4.

11th January, 1939.

Report on the Analysis of a Sample of Water Submitted on the 3rd of January, 1939 by The West Gloucestershire Water Company, Kingswood, Bristol.

---

Labelled: Shipton Moyne.

---

This sample has faint opalescence settling to a minute deposit containing a trace of iron.

The water is neutral in reaction, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and is of satisfactory organic quality.

The saline constituents consist for the greater part of Calcium bicarbonate with smaller traces of various Sodium Salts.

The water is therefore, hard in character, but not to an excessive degree.

The sample collected from the Force Pump Delivery, is clear and bright in appearance, and of the highest standard of bacterial purity, and the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for the purposes of public supply.

(Signed) ERN. SUCKLING.

---

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES  
91, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,  
LONDON, E.C. 4.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 3/1/39 from West Gloucestershire Water Company, Labelled Frampton, Filtered Water Main; after chlorination 0.5 p.p.m. and 2 hours contact, and subsequent filtration.

Signed and taken by E. S. Dale. Witness: W. Whittern.

Date: 2/1/39. 11.17 a.m.

*Appearance* ... Clear and bright.  
*Odour* ... Nil. Total Alkalinity as CaCO<sub>3</sub>; 29.0  
*Colour* ... Normal.  
*Free from Carbonic Acid* 1.8 Reaction pH. Neutral: 7.6.

*Results expressed in parts per 100,000*

Ca.	Mg.	Na.	K.	CO <sub>2</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>	Cl.	NO <sub>2</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Probable Combinations.
6.4	2.3			17.4	6.2	2.3		1.30	
6.4	—	—	—	9.6	—	—	—	—	Calcium Carbonate 16.00
—	2.3	—	—	5.66	—	—	—	—	Magnesium „ 7.96
—	—	1.65	—	2.14	—	—	—	—	Sodium Carbonate 3.79
—	—	2.98	—	—	6.2	—	—	—	Sodium Sulphate 9.18
—	—	1.5	—	—	—	2.3	—	—	Sodium Chloride 3.80
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Silica 1.30
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Difference 0.97
Total Solid constituents dried at 180°C.									43.00

*Hardness*—Permanent 0.0. Temporary 26.0. Total 26.0.

Ammonical Nitrogen 0.0165 Free Ammonia 0.0200.

Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.0013 Albuminoid Ammonia 0.0016.

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F ..... 0.010.

Nitrites ..... Absent.

Metals ..... Absent.

*Note*:—To convert the above parts per 100,000 into grains per gallon, multiply by .7

Free Chlorine 0.15 p.p.m.

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Colonies per c.c, or ml.—

On Agar in 3 days at 20°C ..... 4.

On Agar at 37°C in 1 day ..... 1.

2 days ..... 2.

Bacillus Coli Present in ..... — Absent in 100 c.c.

Bacillus Welchii Present in ..... — Absent in 100 c.c.

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes).

(Signed) ERN. SUCKLING.

## THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

91, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, E.C. 4.

11th January, 1939.

Report on the Analysis of a Sample of Water Submitted on the 3rd January, 1939 by The West Gloucestershire Water Company, Kingswood, Bristol.

---

Labelled: "Frampton, Filtered Water Main; after chlorination. 0.5 p.p.m. and 2 hours contact, and subsequent filtration.

---

This sample is clear and bright and of normal colour. The water is neutral in reaction, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, no metals, is of satisfactory organic quality, and a high degree of bacterial purity.

It is, therefore considered pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for the purposes of public supply.

(Signed) ERN. SUCKLING,

---

**(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.**

Extensions of sewers have been necessary, owing to housing developments, and the duplication of a portion of a main sewer which passed through a housing estate has been affected.

During 1938, 210 new houses were connected to the sewers.

**2. Rivers and Streams.**

No special action appeared necessary during the year.

**3. (i). Closet Accommodation.**

Water carriage system is general throughout the district, there only being a few exceptions in outlying positions.







## (e) Outworkers Residences.

No. inspected.	6
No. of inspections.	6
Action taken.	Nil

(f) Canal Boats - - -	No. inspected.	Nil
	No. of inspections.	Nil
	Action taken.	Nil

(g) Dairies. Cow Sheds, Milk Shops.		
	No. inspected.	19
	No. of inspections.	19
	Action taken.	Nil

(h) Slaughter houses -	No. inspected.	10
	No. of inspections.	430

*(iv)* **Shops and Offices.**

No special action was taken under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936. All new shops were inspected

*(v)* **Camping Sites.**

(a) No. of sites used for camping purposes during the year.	1
(b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	Nil
(c) Estimated maximum No. of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season.	25
(d) No. of Tents, Vans or Sheds inspected	6
(e) No. of inspections.	6
(f) Action taken:—	

Order in court for removal of caravans granted, and site cleared.

*(vi)* **Smoke Abatement.**

(a) Observations made	1
(b) Complaints received.	1

Notice service and nuisance abated.

The Bristol and District Regional Smoke Abatement Advisory Council was formed during 1938. The scope and nature of the activities of this Council are as follows:—

1. To secure uniformity and improvement in the administration of legislation.
2. To confer on matters relating to smoke abatement.
3. To give advice in difficult cases
4. To maintain liaison with other regional councils and with the Ministry of Health.
5. Propaganda, education and research.
6. Co-operation with industry.

The representatives from this Council are:—

Councillor B. W. J. Woodhall.

Mr. F. Alan Long, Sanitary Inspector.

The Council was represented at the Smoke Abatement Conference held at Bristol.

### **(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no swimming baths in the district.

### **(viii) Eradiction of Bed Bugs.**

1. (a) No. of Council houses found to be infested 2
- (b) No. of Council houses disinfested. 2
- (c) No. of other houses found to be infested. Nil
- (d) No. of other houses disinfested. Nil
2. The disinfecting is carried out by the use of a substance called "Zaldecide", which is expressly prepared for this purpose.
3. No special action has been found necessary to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.
4. The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council.

#### 4. Schools.

The newer schools in the district are of a good standard, but some of the older schools leave room for improvement.

It was found necessary to serve notice on one school for the improvement of sanitary conditions, and this was complied with.

The usual routine methods of dealing with infectious disease were adopted, and special disinfection was carried out on several occasions to prevent spreading among school children.

Each week a list of absentees through illness is sent by the Head Teacher to the County Medical Officer of Health, and a copy is transmitted to the local Medical Officer of Health, who visits the schools where desirable and takes such action as seems necessary.

The children attending the Public Elementary and Senior Schools are regularly inspected by the School Medical Officer's Assistant from Gloucester, who periodically visits for this purpose.

The school conditions remained unaltered, children over eleven years of age going to the New Senior School in North View Road, Staple Hill, and the younger children continued to attend the older schools at Staple Hill, Soundwell, Downend and Mangotsfield, the three latter being Church of England Schools.

#### D.—HOUSING.

The Minister of Health in an introduction to a booklet recently issued "About Housing" wrote "A decent house is a primary social need. Good housing conditions are of fundamental importance to the Nation's Health."

Since taking up office as Medical Officer of Health in May last year I have had opportunities of examining the general housing conditions in the Area, and it appears that in several parts of the District some action to improve the housing conditions is necessary.

At the close of the year consideration was being given as to what action should be taken under the Housing Act, 1936.

1938 was a year of activity in the building world, 210 new houses having been erected, including 36 council houses.



# 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	...	...	49
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.						59
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	...	...	...			16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.						16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...			33
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...		13

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	...	...			13
--	-----	-----	-----	--	--	----

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...					3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.						Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners. ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 33
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 12
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... Nil

#### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year (since last housing survey) ... Nil
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. ... Nil
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... 4
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 12
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. ... 86
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. ... Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report. ... Nil

#### E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### (a) Milk Supply.

The Sanitary Inspector keeps a register of Milk Producers and Milk Retailers, and he inspects Dairies and Shops and takes samples of milk for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli.



Cattle are inspected periodically by the Veterinary Officers of the Gloucestershire County Council, as well as by the Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There are twelve slaughterhouses in the district, and in ten of these slaughtering regularly takes place. The Sanitary Inspector visits weekly these slaughterhouses, and inspects any animals that are awaiting slaughter, and the carcasses of those that have been slaughtered.

The weight of meat condemned during the year totalled  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons, exclusive of small stuff, such as diseased livers, etc., which were destroyed locally.

The number of animals killed during the year was as follows:—

Cattle, (including Cows).	1,300
Calves.	808
Sheep and Lambs.	7,176
Pigs.	5,434

TOTAL	14,718
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No. of visits to

Slaughterhouses	430
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All the slaughterhouses in the district are licensed, except one which is registered. The distinction between registered and licensed slaughterhouses will disappear with the coming into force of the new Food and Drugs Act in October, 1939.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

Public Health (condensed Milk) Regulations  
1923 and 1927.

Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations,  
1923 and 1927.

Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food)  
Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

Any action under the above is taken by the Police, who also exercise general supervision.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

When necessary, this is carried out by the Department of Preventative Medicine of Bristol University.

## (e) Nutrition.

Apart from the advice given to Mothers by the Health Visitors of the Gloucestershire County Council, no special action has been taken to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject of nutrition.

## (f) Shell-fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Shell-fish marketed in this district are brought from off the Cornish coast.

## F.--PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) reported during the year was 64, which although being 34 less than in 1937, is above the average for the past five years the figures for the respective years being:—

1934	...	...	...	32
1935	...	...	...	33
1936	...	...	...	35
1937	...	...	...	98
1938	...	...	...	64

## (a) Diphtheria.

Thirteen cases were reported, an increase of nine over 1937, but there were no deaths. Ten of these cases were admitted to hospital.

A proposal by the Gloucestershire County Council in regard to free immunisation of all children against Diphtheria was submitted to the Council for consideration. Briefly, the scheme involved immunisation of school children by one of the County School Medical Officers, and of children under school age by local medical practitioners. The only direct cost to be borne by the Local Authority was the purchase of immunising material. The Council agreed to the scheme, but owing to the fact that other County Districts imposed certain restrictions in regard to the administration in their areas, the County Council has taken no further action.

## (b) Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-six cases were notified, which was a marked decrease, being forty-eight less than in 1937, when eighty-four cases were notified, and nineteen of these were removed to Hospital.

The cases were chiefly of a fairly mild type, and no deaths resulted.

## (c) Other Diseases.

Tables follow which indicate the incidence of all infectious diseases in Wards and in Age Groups.

Table showing incidence of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups, etc.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over.	Total cases notifi'd	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	22	7	4	2	—	—	—	36	19	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	9	1	—	2	—	—	—	13	10	—
Enteric Fever(includ- ing Para-typhoid)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	9
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streptococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Mastoids	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
TOTAL	—	—	2	—	—	35	8	4	8	—	4	3	64	34	10



**Table Showing Incidence of Infectious Disease in Wards.**

Disease.	Downend	Soundwell	Mangotsfield
Scarlet Fever ... ..	14	20	2
Diphtheria ... ..	7	4	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	—	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..	5	1	—
Polioencephalitis ... ..	—	1	—
Streptococcal Meningitis ... ..	—	1	—
Measles ... ..	1	1	—
Mastoids ... ..	—	1	—
Total ...	27	31	6

**CANCER.**

The British Empire Cancer Campaign has recently formed a Committee to stimulate the education of the Public on matters concerning Cancer, and panels of practioners have been formed to give lectures to Local Organisations. The objects of these lectures are (1) to diminish the present very wide-spread fear of the disease; (2) to impress upon people the importance of *early* diagnosis and to persuade them to seek medical advice at an early stage of the disease, and (3) to convince people that cancer in its *early* stages is *curable*.

The Medical Officer of Health acts as local secretary, and is always prepared to arrange lectures on request being made.

**PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.**

No action was taken during the year under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925 or under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as the County Council provide adequate services for the welfare of the blind through the County Association.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

The number of new cases reported during the year (14 respiratory and 6 non-respiratory) was an increase of seven over 1937, when only 13 cases were reported.

There were eight deaths, which equals the total for 1937, when the same number were recorded.

The following tables show sex, ages and occupations of new cases and of deaths during the year:—

**Table shewing New Cases and Deaths in Age Groups.**

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
15—	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—
25—	1	4	—	—	2	1	—	—
35—	3	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	7	7	5	1	6	1	—	1



NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY.	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
31 yrs. Window Cleaner	26 yrs. Spinster, no Occupation	6 yrs. Scholar ( <i>Peripheral Glands</i> )	? Age Home duties ( <i>Glands</i> )	19 yrs. Engineers Labourer	26 yrs. Spinster, No Occupation	—	8 yrs. Scholar ( <i>Tuberc. Meningitis</i> )
44 yrs. Wireless Dealer	25 yrs. ? Occupation	16 yrs. Foundry worker ( <i>Spine</i> )		29 yrs. Cardboard Box Maker			
10 yrs. Scholar	42 yrs. ? Occupation			28 yrs. Check Collector			
5 yrs. Scholar	18 yrs. Stitcher	9 yrs. Scholar ( <i>Cervical Glands</i> )		40 yrs. Brewery Labourer			
24 years. ? Occupation	33 yrs. Home duties	20 yrs. Clerk ( <i>Peripheral Glands</i> )		42 yrs. Clerk			
37 yrs. ? Occupation	20 yrs. Cloth Factory Worker	3 yrs. Infant ( <i>Peritoneum</i> )		44 yrs. Wireless Dealer			
40 yrs. Bricklayer	27 yrs. Home duties						
7	7	5	1	6	1	—	1

## MANGOTSFIELD ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Few changes were made at the Hospital during 1938. The Staff is as follows:—

1. A Matron.
2. Two Nurses.
3. A Probationer.
4. A Kitchen Hand.
5. An Engineer who drives the Ambulance, works the disinfecter, and assists the Sanitary Inspector in disinfecting the houses.
6. A Gardener.
7. A Laundress.

Outside nursing assistance is obtained when the work is unusually heavy. During 1938, 30 cases were admitted from the Urban District.

Several schemes have been prepared under Section 185 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the co-ordination of Hospital Accommodation in the County.

I understand that no scheme has yet been formulated which has secured agreement of all County Districts.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The Advent of Air Raid Precautions has imposed further duties on the Local Authority, and the acceleration of preparations during the September crisis resulted in the inevitable dislocation of normal Public Health duties. The amount of routine work entailed in organising first-aid posts and securing the ultimate efficient working of various services has been considerable.

## CONCLUSION.

The District maintained its fairly high standard of health, the death rate being slightly below the rate for the whole of England and Wales. There were no epidemics of infectious diseases during the year.

The Playing Field in Soundwell Road which was purchased in 1937 has proved of great benefit in the District, and has been fully enjoyed by the children in the Area. A Physical Fitness Campaign with a series of demonstrations of organised games was given under the Play Leadership Scheme of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, and the demonstrations were well attended, and great interest was shown.

The Council have now acquired a further area to be developed similarly at Downend.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. MENZIES CORMACK,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



